



# Midland Football League Newsletter

15th February 2017

**League News**

## Travels of The Press Officer

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2017

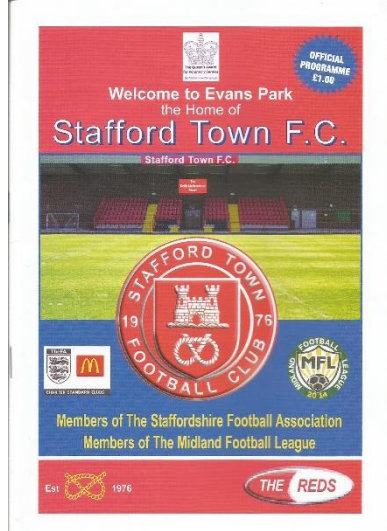
Division 1 (49)

### Stafford Town 4 Heather St Johns 2

With snow causing a number of postponements, the advantage of a 3G pitch were all to see at Evans Park as Stafford Town entertained Heather St Johns. The two sides had met the week previously with Town winning 2-1 at St Johns Park. Stafford made the early running when a cross from Dan Jones was turned past his own post by Shane Smith. The home side went even closer when Ryan Bradshaw's header hit the post and we were still only in the 2<sup>nd</sup> minute. Luke Pinnock had Heather's first attempt with his shot straight into the midriff of Ben James. An excellent move by Heather saw Ryan Nesbitt force a fine save from James. Stafford took the lead in the 11<sup>th</sup> minute. Jones broke clear on the left, cut inside and curled a shot past Ben Allsopp and into the far corner. Stafford went close to a 2<sup>nd</sup> a minute later when Jones picked out the overlapping Harry Bowers whose shot was well held by Allsopp. Ryan Pace was the next to test the Heather keeper with a header straight at Allsopp. Heather weathered the storm and came back to equalise in the 23<sup>rd</sup> minute. Jake Healy threaded the ball through to Nesbitt who sliced through the Stafford defence and gave James no chance with his finish. It was now Heather that were asking all the questions and a shot on the turn from Mitch Woodbine was saved by James. In the 26<sup>th</sup> minute, a free-kick from the left was headed over by Heather centre-back Rudy Misambo. Misambo inadvertently foiled an attack by his own side when he got in the way of a Woodbine header. Two minutes before the break, the home side regained the lead. Jones was picked out on the right and his low cross was flicked home at the near post by skipper Pace.

Six minutes into the second half, the visitors drew level again. Persistence by Joel Ambalu, harassing the defender and winning the ball ended with his ball in being turned into his own net by Bowers. The end to end nature of the game continued with both sides striving for the three points. A mistake by Smith let in Bradshaw but Allsopp was on hand to make the save. Just after the hour mark, Bradshaw beat the offside trap and he forced an excellent save from the Heather keeper. Stafford regained the lead in the 64<sup>th</sup> minute. Bowers was the provider as his low ball was turned in by the impressive Bradshaw. Back came Heather with Woodbine striking the post with James beaten. Stafford opened up a 2-goal lead in eth 69<sup>th</sup> minute with the goal of the game. Bradshaw picked up the ball on the left edge of the penalty are, beat two defenders and curled his shot perfectly into the corner. The visitors responded again with Callum Rudd hitting the outside of the post. In the 80<sup>th</sup> minute, Bradshaw was close to a hat-trick with a solo effort which Allsopp tipped over the bar. Still Heather persisted with Eddie Wilson wasting an excellent chance heading wide from a Smith cross. Into the final minute, Liam Day-Downing was off target for Stafford as the Heather defence stopped. The final say went to Bradshaw who was just wide with an effort but it was his performance which separated the sides.

An excellent game of football which was a credit to both sides. The benefits of the 3G pitch were clear for all to see and the wet surface allowed both sides to play good football. On this showing, Stafford should be able to climb the table. Heather have a number of talented youngsters and it will be interesting to see how their careers develop.



Tuesday 14th February 2017

## Polymac Packaging League Cup (50)

### Rocester 4 Brocton 3

On a mild evening, the last remaining 3<sup>rd</sup> round tie finally took place with the winners facing a trip to Division 1 front runners, Hinckley AFC. With only 20 miles between the two sides, there is always local pride at stake when the Romans entertain the Badgers. Rocester were the first to have an attempt on goal with an overhead kick from Oliver Roome just wide. Rocester went close a minute later when a ball was whipped cross the Brocton box but there was no one on hand to turn it home. The visitors took the lead with their first real chance in the 6<sup>th</sup> minute. Dan Lomas found space on the left and with keeper Adam Binks off his line, his left footed cross eluded the keeper and found the far corner. Binks fared better 3 minutes later, racing off his line to thwart Josh Sedgley. Roome wasted a decent chance for Rocester, taking too much time and then off target. Brocton had appeals for a penalty waved away in the 27<sup>th</sup> minute after Jack Edwards was convinced Matt Nutt had handled in the area. Rocester came close to an equaliser in the 32<sup>nd</sup> minute when Martin Smyth headed against the post. Within a minute, Brocton had doubled their lead. A left-wing dross from Nick Wellecomme saw Carl Allen and Binks fail to communicate and the weak clearance fell to Sedgley who volleyed the ball home. Aiden Stone made a fine save for Brocton and Room was wasteful with the rebound blasting the ball well wide. Brocton made it three in the 40<sup>th</sup> minute. Edwards picked up the ball on the left, cut inside and with Binks in no-man's land, slotted it past the keeper. Rocester needed a foothold and got one in the 42<sup>nd</sup> minute. Joe Brockley lined up a free-kick and curled it over the wall and into the top corner. On the stroke of half-time Brockley almost repeated the act, this time the ball just wide of the angle.

Brocton had a great opportunity of restoring their 3-goal advantage 8 minutes into the second half. Edwards played the ball into the path of Dave Ablewhite but he tried to side foot the ball into the corner and instead was wide of the goal. Rocester were having more of the play but Brocton still posed a threat and an excellent Crossfield ball from Wellecomme found substitute Charlie Marshall whose cross was deflected for a corner. Two Rocester subs combined well with Seb Szondi inside to George Teeney but his shot was over the bar. Rocester were now in total command with Brocton struggling to get the ball out of their own half. Smyth side footed wide when well placed before Rocester scored their second in the 81<sup>st</sup> minute. Szondi overlapped down the left and his ball in was deftly lifted over Stone by Sam Bates, a finish if the highest quality. Four minutes later, Rocester were level when a ball over the top of the defence was perfectly weighted for Roome who gave Stone no chance. As the clock reached 90 minutes, Stone pulled off a super save to deny Callum Riddell with Smyth well wide with the rebound. Two minutes into stoppage time, Rocester completed the turnaround. A long clearance by Binks found Riddell who picked his spot and curled a wonderful shot past Stone and into the net. A fitting way to finish a quite remarkable game.

**TODAY'S SQUADS**

**Rocester** (Green & Black) - Manager: Danny Martin

Richard PROGGATT	Match Officials
James HENST	Referee:
Matt NUTT	Mr. P. Scorer
Carl ALLEN	(Stafford)
Andrew LITCH	Assistant:
Joshua SIMPSON	Mr. I. Wyle
David TOMMASE	Mr. G. Wood
Joe BROCKLEY	
Rob NICHOLSON	
Sam BATES	
Tom BROWN	
Callum RIDDELL	
Oliver ROOME	
Tom SMYTH	
Martin SMYTH	
Sam BATES	
Callum RIDDELL	
Wes MANSFIELD	

**Brocton** (Green & White) - Manager: David Binks

Aiden LANE
Aiden STONE
Joe POWELL
Mark MANSFIELD
Sam TRIGOR
Gary BEE
Thomas VAUGHAN
Jack EDWARDS
Chris COOKE
Nick WELLCOMME
THOMAS BENS
David ABLEWHITE
Charlie MARSHALL
Ryan FARLER
Sam BATES
Matthew HOLLAND
Chris HOLLAND
Mark W. WILSON
Mark DOCKERTY
Ben WILKINSON

**Tuesday 14th February 2017**

**Rocester**  
v  
**Brocton**

**Polymac Packaging**  
League Cup 3rd Round  
Kick Off 7.45pm

**Main Sponsor 2016-17**

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Official Programme & Fixture List - Free

## Review

### Premier Division

There were only 4 games in the Premier Division on Saturday and even though they were without a game, Alvechurch were the day's big winners. **Lye Town** could have closed the gap to 5 points but they were beaten by a resurgent **Long Eaton United** at Grange Park. Ben Billingham gave Lye the lead from the penalty spot but goals in the second half from Andy Todd and Romaine Graham gave the home side the points. **Westfields** stay 4<sup>th</sup> but are 17 points behind the leaders with only 4 games in hand as they went down 4-2 at **Heanor Town**. Chris Ham twice gave Westfields the lead but two goals from Jay Cooper in the last 8 minutes meant the points were Heanor's. **St Andrews** are up to 6<sup>th</sup> place following a 4-1 win over **Shawbury United** at Canal Street with Shay Brennan scoring twice. At the bottom, it was a bad day for **Boldmere St Michaels** who lost 2-1 at home to **Quorn**.

**Coleshill Town** moved up to 2<sup>nd</sup> place on Monday evening but were pushed all the way by lowly **Stourport Swifts**. Coleshill won the game 4-3 with the goals shared across 7 different scorers.

**Westfields** bounced back to form with a 6-1 win over ten-man **Coventry United**. The game was level at 1-1 when Jimmy Halton received a second yellow card. From thereon in, Westfields ran away with it with Craig Jones scoring twice.

## League Table

1	<u>Alvechurch</u>	31	21	6	4	74	24	50	69
2	<u>Coleshill Town</u>	30	20	3	7	80	43	37	63
3	<u>Lye Town</u>	28	18	7	3	57	23	34	61
4	<u>Westfields</u>	28	16	7	5	72	44	28	55
5	<u>Sporting Khalsa</u>	25	14	5	6	52	29	23	47
6	<u>St Andrews</u>	30	15	2	13	67	60	7	47
7	<u>Coventry United</u>	29	14	4	11	44	39	5	46
8	<u>Heanor Town</u>	28	12	8	8	52	45	7	44
9	<u>Coventry Sphinx</u>	27	10	7	10	51	53	-2	37
10	<u>Long Eaton United</u>	27	10	7	10	48	52	-4	37
11	<u>Quorn</u>	28	11	4	13	34	49	-15	37
12	<u>Rocester</u>	27	9	8	10	46	52	-6	35
13	<u>Shawbury United</u>	31	11	2	18	57	73	-16	35
14	<u>Walsall Wood</u>	30	11	2	17	42	60	-18	35
15	<u>Loughborough University</u>	30	8	10	12	53	51	2	34
16	<u>Highgate United</u>	26	9	5	12	42	49	-7	32
17	<u>Shepshed Dynamo</u>	26	8	7	11	38	42	-4	31
18	<u>Boldmere St Michaels</u>	29	7	8	14	36	47	-11	29
19	<u>AFC Wulfrunians</u>	29	8	5	16	34	57	-23	29
20	<u>Stourport Swifts</u>	27	6	9	12	41	52	-11	27
21	<u>Tividale</u>	29	6	3	20	37	73	-36	21
22	<u>Brocton</u>	27	6	3	18	31	71	-40	21

## Division 1

**Bromsgrove Sporting** extended their lead at the top of the table to 4 points after a dramatic win at The Victoria Ground over **Cadbury Athletic**. Sporting took the lead early in the first-half but two goals from Troy Herbert saw the Chocolatemens take the lead. Tom Craine equalised in the 72<sup>nd</sup> minute and he won the penalty in the last minute which Liam Spink converted for the home side. **Leicester Road** stayed within 6 points of the leaders with a Matty Stenson double helping them to a 3-1 win at **Nuneaton Griff**. **Lichfield City** move up to 4<sup>th</sup> following a 4-1 win at Pershore Town. Dan Griffiths scored a hat-trick for Lichfield while Pershore drop into the bottom two. There were important wins at the foot of the table for three sides battling to avoid the drop. **Studley** climbed out of the bottom two with a 4-0 win over bottom side **Southam United**. **Stafford Town** climb to 17<sup>th</sup> place with a 4-2 win over **Heather St Johns** at Evans Park, Matt Bradshaw scoring twice. **Chelmsley Town** moved above Pelsall Villa following a 3-1 win at home to **Racing Club Warwick** who have picked up just one point out of the last 15.

**Hinckley AFC** moved up to 4<sup>th</sup> with a 3-2 win over **Heath Hayes**. The visitors took the lead in the 17<sup>th</sup> minute but Hinckley took control before half-time.

1	<u>Bromsgrove Sporting</u>	23	18	5	0	72	19	53	59
2	<u>Atherstone Town</u>	26	17	4	5	74	37	37	55
3	<u>Leicester Road</u>	23	17	2	4	71	22	49	53
4	<u>Hinckley AFC</u>	23	16	3	4	79	31	48	51
5	<u>Lichfield City</u>	25	15	4	6	49	28	21	49
6	<u>Racing Club Warwick</u>	26	13	6	7	67	45	22	45
7	<u>Cadbury Athletic</u>	27	11	11	5	51	34	17	44
8	<u>Littleton</u>	25	12	2	11	48	42	6	38
9	<u>Bolehall Swifts</u>	24	12	1	11	56	57	-1	37
10	<u>Coventry Copsewood</u>	26	11	4	11	56	57	-1	37
11	<u>Heather St Johns</u>	24	11	3	10	52	45	7	36
12	<u>Uttoxeter Town</u>	24	11	3	10	42	52	-10	36
13	<u>Nuneaton Griff</u>	25	9	3	13	49	53	-4	30
14	<u>Heath Hayes</u>	24	8	3	13	47	51	-4	27
15	<u>Chelmsley Town</u>	26	7	4	15	45	53	-8	25
16	<u>Pelsall Villa</u>	26	6	5	15	34	63	-29	23
17	<u>Stafford Town</u>	27	5	7	15	42	58	-16	22
18	<u>Studley</u>	27	6	3	18	46	84	-38	21
19	<u>Pershore Town</u>	25	6	2	17	29	65	-36	20
20	<u>Southam United</u>	24	0	3	21	8	121	-113	3

## Division 2

**Droitwich Spa** opened up a 4-point gap at the top of the table as a Louis Bridges goal gave them all three points at in-form **Coton Green**. **Redditch Borough** went goal crazy at The Valley Stadium beating visitors **Bloxwich Town** 9-0. Liam Fullerton led the way with four goals while both Billy Garvey and Gareth Hodgetts scored twice. **Paget Rangers** picked up three points on their travels with a 2-0 win at **Leamington Hibernian**. **Continental Star** are just 3 points adrift of the pack following a 2-0 win at **Barnt Green Spartak**.

1	<u>Droitwich Spa</u>	22	15	3	4	59	23	36	48
2	<u>Alvis Sporting Club</u>	16	14	2	0	38	10	28	44
3	<u>Fairfield Villa</u>	19	13	2	4	50	29	21	41
4	<u>Sutton United</u>	22	11	3	8	49	55	-6	35 *
5	<u>Redditch Borough</u>	20	11	4	5	51	22	29	34 *
6	<u>Paget Rangers</u>	16	10	2	4	46	19	27	32
7	<u>Knowle</u>	19	8	5	6	41	30	11	29
8	<u>Barnt Green Spartak</u>	21	8	2	11	35	46	-11	26
9	<u>Coton Green</u>	17	6	6	5	36	30	6	24
10	<u>Bloxwich Town</u>	23	7	3	13	26	58	-32	24
11	<u>Earlswood Town</u>	22	6	4	12	33	44	-11	22
12	<u>Feckenham</u>	22	5	7	10	33	51	-18	22
13	<u>Leamington Hibernian</u>	23	6	3	14	35	56	-21	21
14	<u>Smithswood Firs</u>	20	5	5	10	41	53	-12	20
15	<u>Hampton</u>	20	4	4	12	23	47	-24	16
16	<u>Continental Star</u>	22	2	7	13	24	47	-23	13

### Division 3

Just three games survived the weather in Division 3 and 2<sup>nd</sup> placed **Montpellier** sent a message of intent to the rest of the division with a stunning 10-0 win over **AFC Solihull**. You don't get many double hat-tricks but Stuart Hendrie achieved just that. **Coventrians** are on a decent run of form and showed this with a 3-2 win at home to **FC Stratford**. The game between 4<sup>th</sup> placed **Shipston Excelsior** and 6<sup>th</sup> placed **Alcester Town** was as tight as expected as the two sides shared a 1-1 draw.

1	<u>NKF Burbage</u>	18	16	2	0	59	11	48	50
2	<u>Montpellier</u>	16	13	1	2	60	17	43	40
3	<u>Northfield Town</u>	16	12	1	3	52	23	29	37
4	<u>Shipston Excelsior</u>	20	11	4	5	47	41	6	37
5	<u>Moors Academy</u>	15	10	1	4	38	27	11	31
6	<u>Alcester Town</u>	21	9	4	8	31	26	5	31
7	<u>FC Stratford</u>	19	9	2	8	53	36	17	29
8	<u>Barton United</u>	20	7	5	8	39	33	6	26
9	<u>Coventrians</u>	18	7	2	9	37	52	-15	23
10	<u>Inkberrow</u>	18	6	2	10	34	47	-13	20
11	<u>Enville Athletic</u>	19	5	1	13	14	39	-25	16
12	<u>AFC Solihull</u>	21	4	2	15	27	61	-34	14
13	<u>Boldmere Sports &amp; Social Falcons</u>	23	3	4	16	18	57	-39	13
14	<u>Castle Vale Town</u>	20	3	3	14	26	65	-39	12

### Polymac Packaging League Cup

**Rocester** made it through to an away quarter final at Hinckley AFC after a dramatic win over **Brocton** at Hillsfield. Brocton raced into a 3-0 lead inside 40 minutes but a free-kick just before the break from Joe Brockley gave the Romans hope. They left it late, equalising in the 85<sup>th</sup> minute then grabbing the winner two minutes into stoppage time to leave the Badgers deflated.



## **Other Cups**

**Northfield Town** reached the semi-final of the Birmingham Vase with a penalty shoot-out win over **Alvis Sporting Club**, after they had finished 2-2 at 90 minutes.

**St Andrews** were knocked out of the Leicestershire Challenge Cup at the semi-final stage losing 4-0 at Barwell for whom Brady Hickey grabbed a hat-trick.

**Highgate United** are into the semi-final of the JW Hunt Cup after two late goals beat league rivals **AFC Wulfrunians**.

**Boldmere St Michaels** and **Paget Rangers** fought out an entertaining draw in the Sutton Charity Cup, the game ending 1-1.

**Stourport Swifts** took a 2-1 lead over Malvern Town in the semi-final of the Worcester Royal Infirmary Cup with the 2<sup>nd</sup> leg to come at Walshes Meadow.

## Reserves

All games postponed

1	<u>Cadbury Athletic Reserves</u>	9	6	1	2	20	14	6	19
2	<u>Rocester Reserves</u>	8	5	3	0	33	13	20	18
3	<u>Romulus Reserves</u>	6	5	0	1	18	12	6	15
4	<u>Walsall Wood Reserves</u>	9	4	2	3	21	15	6	14
5	<u>Lichfield City Reserves</u>	7	3	1	3	26	20	6	10
6	<u>Coton Green Reserves</u>	10	3	0	7	18	27	-9	9
7	<u>Gresley Reserves</u>	6	2	1	3	8	9	-1	7
8	<u>Tipton Town Reserves</u>	7	1	1	5	11	35	-24	4
9	<u>Brocton Reserves</u>	6	0	3	3	14	19	-5	3
10	<u>Continental Star Reserves</u>	4	0	2	2	7	-5	2	

## Leading scorers

<b>Ezekiel Agyemang</b>	<b>Tipton Town</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Terence Davies</b>	<b>Tipton Town</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Daniel Craythorne</b>	<b>Lichfield City</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Oliver Roome</b>	<b>Rocester</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Chad Barrett</b>	<b>Cadbury Athletic</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Josh Dutton</b>	<b>Gresley</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Zain Thomas</b>	<b>Romulus</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Stephen Wilkins</b>	<b>Lichfield City</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Kieran Smith</b>	<b>Brocton</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Romano Graham</b>	<b>Walsall Wood</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Jorge Eley</b>	<b>Rocester</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Anthony Smith</b>	<b>Romulus</b>	<b>9</b>

## Under 21

### CHALLENGE BOWL ROUND 1

#### Group "A"

SUTTON COLDFIELD TOWN **3** v **2** COVENTRY UNITED

#### UNDER 21 DIVISION NORTH

COLESHILL TOWN **2** v **3** AYLESTONE PARK

#### UNDER 21 DIVISION SOUTH

DROITWICH SPA G & B **3** v **2** BEDWORTH UNITED

HIGHGATE UNITED **1** v **2** ALVECHURCH

### U21 North

### U21 South

1 <u>Aylestone Park U21</u>	8 6 1 1 3 1 14 17 19	1 <u>Bedworth United U21</u>	11 7 1 3 3 8 17 21 22
2 <u>Coleshill Town U21</u>	10 4 1 5 2 1 18 3 13	2 <u>Kettering Town U21</u>	7 6 0 1 2 1 15 6 18
3 <u>Tamworth U21</u>	4 3 0 1 2 0 5 15 9	3 <u>Alvechurch U21</u>	8 5 2 1 2 3 11 12 17
4 <u>Sutton Coldfield Town U21</u>	7 2 2 3 1 3 19 -6 8	4 <u>AFC Rushden &amp; Diamonds U21</u>	11 4 1 6 1 8 3 4 -16 13
5 <u>Brocton U21</u>	3 1 2 0 7 5 2 5	5 <u>Coventry United U21</u>	4 3 0 1 1 4 4 10 9
6 <u>Heath Hayes U21</u>	4 0 2 2 6 1 4 -8 2	6 <u>Highgate United U21</u>	6 3 0 3 8 11 -3 9
7 <u>Leek Town U21</u>	4 0 0 4 3 2 6 -23 0	7 <u>Bromsgrove Sporting U21</u>	5 2 1 2 6 6 0 7
		8 <u>H.O.W. Academy U21</u>	9 2 0 7 1 5 2 2 -7 6
		9 <u>Droitwich Spa BG U21</u>	8 1 1 6 1 1 2 7 -16 4
		10 <u>Kings Heath Concorde U21</u>	3 0 0 3 2 9 -7 0

### Leading scorers

James Parker	Aylestone Park	23	Reece Snape	Coventry United	21
James McGrady	Heath Hayes	20	John Dodd	Tamworth	13
Ryan Palmer	Coventry United	13	Brad Rolston	Heath Hayes	13
Jacob Dodds	Bedworth United	13	Lewis Ludford	Coventry United	12
Josh Oultram	Leek Town	11	Jordan Wilson	Kettering Town	11
Jack Tonks	Brocton	11	Ryan Sappleton-Williams	Sutton Coldfield	11
Bailey Beddows	H.O.W. Academy	11	Ben Cooling	Heath Hayes	10
Michael Wright	Tamworth	10	Callum Harper	H.O.W. Academy	10
Ryan Murphy	Bedworth United	10			

### Premier Division – Leading goal scorers

Shay Brennan	St Andrews	34
Josh March	Alvechurch	27
David Meese	Sporting Khalsa	26
Richard Greaves	Westfields	26
Nathan Hodge	Shawbury United, Westfields	25
Craig Jones	Westfields	24
Lei Brown	Highgate United	19
Jack Till	Lye Town	18
Kieran Debrouwer	Heanor Town	18
Jordan Nadat	Alvechurch, Coleshill Town	18
Ben Billingham	Lye Town	17
Dean Rathbone	Coleshill Town	17
Andrew Bridge	Loughborough University	16
Marco Adaggio	Highgate United	15
Mykel Beckley	Coleshill Town, Coventry United	14
Elliot Putman	St Andrews	13
Drew Aiton	Walsall Wood	13
Nathan Dale	Quorn	13
Daniel Dubidat	Alvechurch	13
Martin Smyth	Rocester	13
McCauley Manning	Highgate United	13
Callum Riddell	Rocester	13
Dan Polan	Westfields	12
Craig Bannister	Sporting Khalsa	12
Sam Hollis	St Andrews	12
Kai Williams	Coventry United	12

### Six players on 11 goals: -

Kevin Hemagou (Long Eaton United), Charles Knowles (Shawbury United), Liam Read (Shepshed Dynamo), Reece Shilvock (Stourport Swifts, Alvechurch), Dan Smith (Tividale) and Elliott Reeves (Heanor Town)

**Division 1 – leading goal scorers**

<b>Alex Naughton</b>	<b>Atherstone Town</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Ryan Seal</b>	<b>Hinckley AFC</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Matthew Stenson</b>	<b>Leicester Road</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Connoll Farrell</b>	<b>Studley, Coventry Copsewood</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Wade Malley</b>	<b>Racing Club Warwick</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Jason Cowley</b>	<b>Bromsgrove Sporting</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Matt Brennan</b>	<b>Nuneaton Griff</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Gareth Evans</b>	<b>Pershore Town, Studley</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Kyle Turner</b>	<b>Atherstone Town, Bolehall Swifts</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Daniel Carter</b>	<b>Littleton</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Paul Sullivan</b>	<b>Hinckley AFC</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Luke Lewis</b>	<b>Uttoxeter Town</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Jamie Smith</b>	<b>Racing Club Warwick</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Joel Ambalu</b>	<b>Heather St Johns</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Sam Agar</b>	<b>Hinckley AFC</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Tom Bates</b>	<b>Nuneaton Griff</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Joe Obi</b>	<b>Bolehall Swifts</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Ben Lund</b>	<b>Lichfield City</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Sean Brain</b>	<b>Bromsgrove Sporting, Littleton</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>David Akinuli</b>	<b>Coventry Copsewood</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Darryl Thomas</b>	<b>Leicester Road</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Chris Lloyd</b>	<b>Bromsgrove Sporting</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Jake Holt</b>	<b>Leicester Road</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Dan Griffiths</b>	<b>Lichfield City</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Jordan Francis</b>	<b>Bolehall Swifts</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Joe Hartshorne</b>	<b>Heath Hayes</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Daniel Holloway</b>	<b>Littleton</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>David Blenkinsopp</b>	<b>Hinckley AFC, Coventry Copsewood</b>	<b>11</b>

## Division 2 – leading goal scorers

Daniel Carter	Paget Rangers	27
Nick Seabourne	Droitwich Spa	21
Connor Collins	Fairfield Villa	20
Thomas Craine	Knowle	18
Mark Bellingham	Paget Rangers	17
Andrew Millan	Coton Green	16
Liam Fullerton	Redditch Borough	16
Jak Albutt	Redditch Borough	15
Dildale Linton	Alvis Sporting Club	15
Pedro Douglas	Continental Star	15
George Ford	Sutton United	14
Dan Pidgeon	Alvis Sporting Club	14
James Lemon	Droitwich Spa	12
Ross Dempster	Paget Rangers	11
Joseph Wright	Leamington Hibernian	10
Martin Crawford	Smithswood Firs	10
Benet Parchment	Barnt Green Spartak	10
Tyron Smith	Smithswood Firs	10
Charlie Cook	Alvis Sporting Club	10
Sam Hulme	Smithswood Firs	10
Joshua Sherington	Coton Green	10
Jack Brimmell	Feckenham	9
Ben Ellicott	Knowle	8
Luke Molloy	Droitwich Spa	8
Ellis Blakemore	Fairfield Villa	8
Stuart Hall	Fairfield Villa	8
Josh Duggan	Sutton United	8
Billy Garvey	Redditch Borough	8

**Division 3**

<b>Stuart Hendrie</b>	<b>Montpellier</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Daniel Priest</b>	<b>Northfield Town</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Jess Adcock</b>	<b>NKF Burbage</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Jay Tilbury</b>	<b>FC Stratford</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Dale Wigmore</b>	<b>Coventrians</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Montel Okoro</b>	<b>Moors Academy</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Dan Lawrence</b>	<b>Northfield Town</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Tom Smith</b>	<b>NKF Burbage</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Peter Martin</b>	<b>Barton United</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Liam Connolly</b>	<b>Coventrians</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Alex Coultas</b>	<b>NKF Burbage</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Charlie Adcock</b>	<b>NKF Burbage</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Nathan Astill</b>	<b>NKF Burbage</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Lewis Chester</b>	<b>Coventrians</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Lewis Fathers</b>	<b>Shipston Excelsior</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Daniel Moore</b>	<b>Castle Vale Town</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Freddy Murphy</b>	<b>FC Stratford</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Jake Harris</b>	<b>Shipston Excelsior</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Lee Hendrie</b>	<b>Montpellier</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Ben Hill</b>	<b>FC Stratford</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Lewis Jones</b>	<b>Northfield Town</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Ashley Wilkes</b>	<b>FC Stratford</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Matthew Layton</b>	<b>Alcester Town</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Paddy Behan</b>	<b>Northfield Town</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Thomas Clewes</b>	<b>Inkberrow</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Callum Coyle</b>	<b>Moors Academy</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Thomas Cuppleditch</b>	<b>Coventrians</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Romario Martin</b>	<b>Moors Academy</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Adam Wooldridge</b>	<b>Enville Athletic</b>	<b>7</b>

## **Preview**

### **FA Vase**

#### **South Shields vs Newport Pagnell**

Northern League South Shields are odds on favourites with the bookmakers to win this year's FA Vase. Some of this will be due to the Northern League's recent dominance but it is mainly due to current form with South Shields having 18 consecutive victories. They have a star-studded line-up with former Sunderland midfielder Julio Arca the most recognisable name. Visitors Newport Pagnell are 11<sup>th</sup> in the United Counties League but they seem to have reserved their best performances this season for the FA Vase. Their victory over runaway UCL league leaders Peterborough Sports was a huge upset and it will be an even bigger shock if they knock out the favourites.

#### **Southall vs Cleethorpes Town**

Southall are the outsiders of the eight teams left in this year's competition as they sit in 5<sup>th</sup> place in Division 1 of the Spartans South Midlands League, the same level as the MFL Division 1. They have surpassed all expectations with a remarkable FA Vase run which started back in September. Their form away from the FA Vase is not great although they did win 8-0 on their travels last Saturday. Cleethorpes Town are well known to MFL clubs as they knocked both Westfields and Alvechurch out of last year's competition. Cleethorpes sit proudly at the top of the Northern Counties East Premier Division with just the two league defeats all season. Recent form is excellent with 14 wins out of the last 15, their only slip up being a defeat at Bridlington Town just before Christmas. Form would point to a Cleethorpes victory but Southall have a habit of pulling out results in this competition.

#### **Coleshill Town vs Sporting Khalsa**

I'm sure this was a draw that neither team wanted as two of the MFL heavyweights go head to head at Pack Meadow, Coleshill are on a fantastic run of results with 11 straight victories, nine of them in the league which has seen them climb to second place. Their performances in the FA Vase have been superb with two stunning away wins at Gorleston and Crowborough Athletic in the previous two rounds. This game brings different challenges not least the pressure of being at home against league rivals. 115 goals in 41 games this season highlights the problems facing Sporting Khalsa. Khalsa are having another excellent season and are 5<sup>th</sup> and still in with an outside chance of promotion. Their FA Vase story includes a win at Alvechurch, a remarkable 5-5 draw at home to Sleaford followed by a 3-0 replay win and a thorough professional dissection of Ely City in the last round. They are not short of goals either but defensively they are very strong. Both sides will go into the game confident that they can progress through to the semi-finals. It could be down to who gets the tactics right on the day.

#### **Bromsgrove Sporting vs Buckland Athletic.**

A huge day for Bromsgrove Sporting as they will be playing in front of the best part of 3,000 supporters at The Victoria Ground. That statistic alone is remarkable for a club that is just 7 years old, formed following the demise of Bromsgrove Rovers. Bromsgrove are unbeaten in Division 1 and have won 13 out of the last 14 games. Their run in the FA Vase has seen them beat Step 5 Sun Sports and Bristol Manor Farm in the previous two rounds. A 13-0 win over Ellistown and Ibstock United set them on their way in the competition back in September. Their only two defeats have come in cup competitions against higher ranked Sporting Khalsa and Rugby Town and they are unbeaten since September. Buckland Athletic are 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Toolstation Western League and accounted for Hinckley AFC in the previous winning 4-3 in extra-time. As you would expect, their current form is excellent with 14 straight victories with their last defeat coming in October. Four of their 5 FA Vase wins have been on the road so they will be well prepared for the challenge that awaits them. This promises to be a super afternoon and can the 3,000 crowd cheer Bromsgrove to further glory.



## Premier Division

Only one place to start and that is at Stourbridge Road with the top of the table clash between **Lye Town** and **Alvechurch**. Both sides have been in excellent form with the leaders picking up 19 points from the last 21. A win for Alvechurch would leave the title in their own hands but the chasing pack will be hoping they slip up. **Westfields** have had a poor run of results which was halted with a 6-1 win in midweek over Coventry United. They welcome mid-table **Coventry Sphinx** to Allpay Park. **Shepshed Dynamo** have gone 9 league games without a win which has seen them slide towards the relegation zone. They host bottom side **Brocton** who have improved of late and will provide a stern challenge. 2<sup>nd</sup> bottom **Tividale** have 1 win in the last 9 and need to improve their results if they are to avoid the drop. Rocester are the visitors to The Beeches with them sitting comfortably in mid-table. **AFC Wulfrunians** are one place clear of the drop zone and they welcome fast improving **Long Eaton United** to Castlecroft. **Boldmere St Michaels** are level on points with Wulfs and they welcome **Shawbury United** to the Trevor Brown Memorial Ground with the visitors having the joint worse defensive record and the 5<sup>th</sup> best attacking record. Seven straight defeats has left **Walsall Wood** just 8 points ahead of safety. They welcome **Coventry United** to the ML Safety Stadium with the visitors on target for a top 6 finish. Two points from their last three games leaves **Highgate United** hovering above the bottom three and they welcome tough opponents in **Heanor Town** to The Coppice. Two points from the last 15 has seen **Loughborough University** slide towards the foot of the table. They travel to **Quorn** who have steadied the ship with two wins in their last three.

## Division 1

With the leaders in FA Vase action, attention moves to Sheepy Road as 2<sup>nd</sup> placed **Atherstone Town** host **Lichfield City** who have been in the top 6 all season. A win for the Adders would close the gap at the top while Lichfield could move to within three points of their hosts with a victory. At the bottom, **Southam United's** last goal came in a 2-2 draw against **Pelsall Villa** in December. The two sides meet again at The Bush Ground with Pelsall 3 points clear of the drop zone. Ten defeats in their last 11 games has dropped **Pershore Town** into the relegation zone. They travel to **Heath Hayes** desperate to arrest the slide. **Studley** are one place above Pershore and they face a tough trip to Allard Way to face a **Coventry Copsewood** side that has won 3 on the trot. Three wins in their last 7 games has lifted **Stafford Town** out of the bottom two. They travel to Townsend Meadow to face a **Racing Club Warwick** side who have picked up a solitary point from their last 4 games. Two sides not safe from relegation meet at The Pingles Stadium with **Nuneaton Griff** hosting **Chelmsley Town**. Three successive defeats has halted **Heather St Johns** progress and they welcome **Bolehall Swifts** to St Johns Park for a mid-table clash. 7<sup>th</sup> meets 8<sup>th</sup> at the TSA Sports Ground with **Cadbury Athletic** looking to get back to winning ways against **Littleton**.

## Division 2

Leaders **Droitwich Spa** host **Smithswood Firs**, who have only managed two games in 2017. 2<sup>nd</sup> placed **Alvis Sporting Club** play their 2<sup>nd</sup> league game of 2017 with a trip to 2<sup>nd</sup> bottom **Hampton**. 3<sup>rd</sup> placed **Fairfield Villa** get back to league action with a home game against 7<sup>th</sup> placed **Knowle**. **Bloxwich Town** suffered at the hands of **Redditch Borough** last week losing 9-0 at The Valley Stadium. They have an immediate chance to put that right as the two sides meet at The Old Red Lion Ground. A win last week for **Continental Star** has given them a chance of climbing off the bottom of the table should they return from **Feckenham** with all three points. **Leamington Hibernian** host **Sutton United** with Sutton winning the reverse fixture at the end of 2016 by the odd goal in five.

### Division 3

**NKF Burbage** remain unbeaten in the league and they will be looking to maintain their 10-point lead at the top of the table when they entertain **Inkberrow**. **Montpellier** made their intentions clear last week with a ten goal demolition of AFC Solihull. They will be hoping for another big win when they welcome 2<sup>nd</sup> bottom **Boldmere Sports & Social Falcons** to Badsey. **Northfield Town** were giant killers in the Birmingham Vase last week beat 2<sup>nd</sup> division favourites Alvis Sporting Club. They are back to league action this week with a home game against **FC Stratford**. 4<sup>th</sup> meets 5<sup>th</sup> at The Beehive with **Moors Academy** welcoming visitors **Shipston Excelsior**. **Enville Athletic** are on a run of 7 straight defeats and they welcome in-form **Coventrians** to Hall Drive as they look to move away from the lower reaches of the table.

### Reserves

#### RESERVE DIVISION

BROCTON	v	WALSALL WOOD	
CONTINENTAL STAR	v	CADBURY ATHLETIC	
COTON GREEN	v	ROCESTER	

### Under 21

#### UNDER 21 DIVISION NORTH

BROCTON	v	COLESHILL TOWN	10.30
SUTTON COLDFIELD TOWN	v	LEEK TOWN	10.30

#### CHALLENGE BOWL ROUND 1

##### Group "A"

ALVECHURCH	v	AYLESTONE PARK	10.30
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##### Group "B"

KINGS HEATH CONCORDE	v	HEATH HAYES	10.30
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#### UNDER 21 DIVISION SOUTH

AFC RUSHDEN & DIAMONDS	v	BROMSGROVE SPORTING	10.30
BEDWORTH UNITED	v	KETTERING TOWN	11.00
COVENTRY UNITED	v	DROITWICH SPA G & B	10.30
H O W ACADEMY	v	HIGHGATE UNITED	10.30

### Other Cups

#### FAZELEY CHARITY CUP SEMI FINALS

LICHFIELD CITY RES.	v	COTON GREEN	
TAMWORTH u21	v	FC PREMIER	2.00